Public Disclosure: National American University
Financial Distress Designation
Effective: May 23, 2019

Based on concerns about the institution’s financial issues, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has assigned a Financial Distress designation to National American University in Rapid City, South Dakota. HLC took this action based on statements made by the University’s parent corporation, National American University Holdings, Inc. in an April 2019 Securities Exchange Commission filing and concern regarding the University’s ability to continue.

The designation is not a sanction. However, HLC also monitors closely the developments at the institution and takes appropriate action when evaluation and evidence result in specific findings related to the institution’s compliance with the HLC Criteria for Accreditation.

What This Means for Students
While under this HLC designation, National American University remains accredited.

The Financial Distress designation indicates to the public that an accredited college or university is dealing with a significant financial condition about which students and public should be informed. The designation remains in place until the institution has provided proof that its financial issues are resolved, or a viable plan is firmly in place to work toward full resolution.

Next Steps
HLC intends for the designation to remain in place until completion of the University’s previously scheduled Advisory Visit in June 2019. The visit is focused on HLC Core Components related to institutional budgeting, finances and planning. HLC will consider the findings of that review to determine whether the designation can be reviewed or whether other action, in accordance with HLC policy, should be taken.

About the Higher Learning Commission
The Higher Learning Commission accredits approximately 1,000 colleges and universities that have a home base in one of 19 states that stretch from West Virginia to Arizona. HLC is a private, nonprofit accrediting agency. It is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Questions? Contact info@hlcommission.org or call 312.263.0456.

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